

GHOST IN THE SHELL MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

2

ISSUE 11 OF 11

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MASAMUNE SHIROW

GH0ST IN THE SHELL
MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 11 OF 11

STORY AND ART BY
MASAMUNE SHIROW

TRANSLATION BY
FREDERIK L. SCHOOT AND TOREN SMITH

この物語に登場する
様々な設定や解説や概
念は全て妄想の産物で
あり、現実とは無関係
の娯楽物です。服用を
誤る事無くお楽しみ頂
ければ幸いです。
またデッチ上げやギミ
ックの「誤用」による
二次被害には当方責任
を負いかねます点を御
了承願います。

LETTERING BY
**TOM ORZECZOWSKI
AND DAN JACKSON**

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OPEN

MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE CONTROL PREFERENCES



WARNING: READ ME FIRST!

Readers may note that certain panels seem to have been inadvertently left unreversed or have incongruous backwards lettering. These were artistic decisions made by Mr. Shirow during the production of the mirror-imaged foreign edition of *Man-Machine Interface*. — Dark Horse Comics and Studio Proteus

The various situations, explanations, and concepts that appear in this book are a product of my wild imagination, a form of entertainment with no connection to reality. Take according to directions, and enjoy. Be advised that the author assumes no responsibility for any collateral damage resulting from improper use of the various constructs, fabrications, and gimmicks in the story.

APOLOGIES AND CORRECTIONS

In the *Ghost in the Shell* graphic novel published in 1991, the heroine, Motoko Kusanagi, fused with a self-described "intelligent life-form" and left Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau. This story takes place approximately four years and five months later. As a result, this story is quite different from what was originally called *Ghost in the Shell* and featured Public Security's Section 9 (the Special Assault Force). I thought of visually differentiating the new Japanese title from the old one by merely changing the last kanji character, from one that means "military unit" to the homophonic kanji for "body" or "form" (which would shift the meaning of "mobile force" or "riot squad" to something like "mobile-unit-body-entity"), but for a variety of reasons I decided not to do so. To those readers expecting a direct continuation of the prior storyline, I apologize and beg for your understanding. I'm sorry, folks!

— Masamune Shirow

Send comments to:

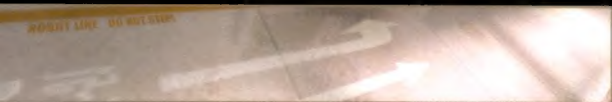
Interface
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie OR 97222 USA

interface@darkhorse.com



06 EPILOGUE
2035.03.06.05:35AM







A GIRL
HATCHED
FROM A
SHELL...



BORN IN THE FIRE
OF SANSHUKU, OR
SHEN, THE CHINESE
EQUIVALENT OF
ORION... HAS THE
SWORD OF
EXTINCTION IN
PERSONALITY...



THOSE BORN UNDER
THE SIGN OF SHEN HAVE
SWORDS IN THEIR MINDS,
POISON IN THEIR MOUTHS,
ENJOY PANDEMONIUM
AND CARNAGE, AND CAN
BE CRAZED BODHISATTVAS
OR BLOODTHIRSTY
HELLHOUNDS...

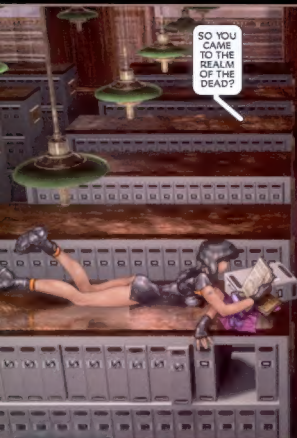
HMM... THERE'S
ONE PERSON IN
THE CHANNELING
AGENCY TO WHOM THAT
APPLIES...



...BUT HER
REGISTERED
NAME IS TANUKI
TAMASUI.
SOUNDS LIKE SOME SORT
OF FAT AND GRUFFY
JAPANESE RACCOON-DOG.

I WONDER
IF IT'S AN
ENTRY
ERROR... OR
SOME SORT
OF CODE...

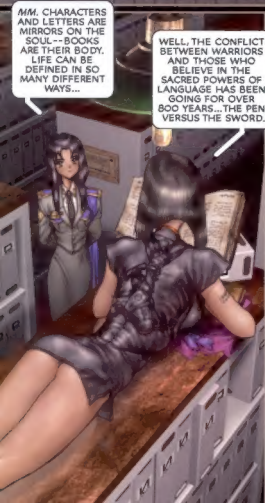
When a cyborg's entire body is a prosthesis, its exterior doesn't have to look the same age as that of the living brain portion inside. But there are sometimes problems when a child's brain is implanted in an adult prosthetic body, and these problems can affect personality development. As a result, most brains are given prosthetic bodies that match them well. In this story, we are assuming people either want prosthetic bodies that look the way they did when they were younger, or that they want natural-looking bodies appropriate to their true age...



SO YOU
CAME TO THE
REALM OF THE
DEAD?



HERE THE
DEAD ARE STILL
LIVING...EVEN
THOUGH THEY
DON'T HAVE
MINDS OR
BODIES.



MM. CHARACTERS
AND LETTERS ARE
MIRRORS ON THE
SOUL--BOOKS
ARE THEIR BODY.
LIFE CAN BE
DEFINED IN SO
MANY DIFFERENT
WAYS...

WELL, THE CONFLICT
BETWEEN WARRIORS
AND THOSE WHO
BELIEVE IN THE
SACRED POWERS OF
LANGUAGE HAS BEEN
GOING FOR OVER
800 YEARS...THE PEN
VERSUS THE SWORD.



MOTOKO...
DO YOU
HAVE
DREAMS?

YOU MEAN,
DO I HAVE
GOALS
THAT CAN
ACTUALLY
BE
ACHIEVED
WITH
EFFORT?

OR ARE YOU
ASKING IF--IN MORE
VULGAR TERMS--
I YEARN FOR SOME
IMPOSSIBLE,
FLEETING IDEAL...?





WHAT DO YOU
USE FOR SELF-
REALIZATION...?

RIGHT NOW,
IF THIS VERY
INSTANT
PROVIDES THE
BEST LONG
AND SHORT-
TERM CHOICES,
THE BEST LIFE
IS PROBABLY
THE AGGREGATE
OF ALL THOSE
CHOICES, YES?



AND IS
THAT WHY
DEATH IS
ACCEPTABLE?

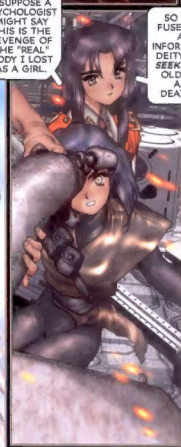


WHAT REAL
ADVANTAGES
HAS A HIGHLY
SOPHISTICATED
PROSTHETIC
BODY--FAR MORE
ADVANCED THAN
A HUMAN BODY--
GIVEN YOU?

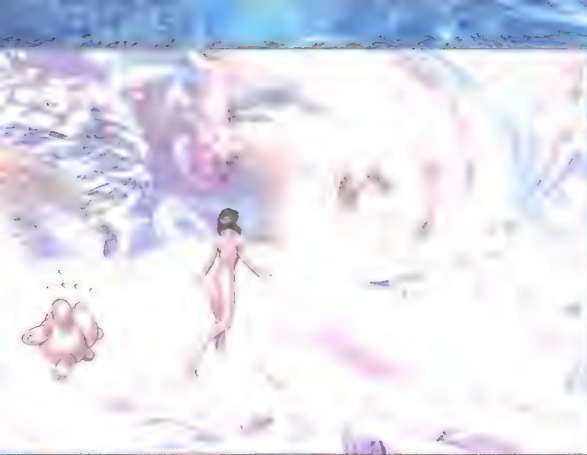
I SUPPOSE A
PSYCHOLOGIST
MIGHT SAY
THIS IS THE
REVENGE OF
THE "REAL"
BODY I LOST
AS A GIRL.

SO WHY
FUSE WITH
AN
INFORMATION
DEITY WHO
SEEKS LIFE,
OLD AGE,
AND
DEATH....?

NO
COMMENT.

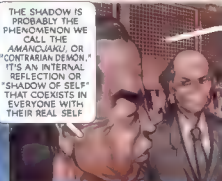






BOTH SHE AND ONE OTHER--AN ASYMMETRICAL SHADOW OF HERSELF-- HAVE GONE BACK UP THE SACRED COLUMN.

THE BRANCHES ARE SWAYING, AND THE TREE ITSELF APPEARS TO BE RESPONDING TO SOMETHING...



THE SHADOW IS PROBABLY THE PHENOMENON WE CALL THE AMANJAKU, OR 'CONTRARIA REASON.' IT'S AN INTERNAL REFLECTION OR 'SHADOW OF SELF' THAT COEXISTIS IN EVERYONE WITH THEIR REAL SELF.

UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFIRM THIS WITH EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION. IT'S USUALLY ONLY APPARENT WHEN A PERSON'S PERSONALITY CHANGES SUDDENLY AND DRAMATICALLY IN THEIR DAILY LIFE.

MMHMM REALLY



THE ROOTS OF THE TREE ARE ERUPTING FROM ONE POINT, AND REVOLVING...



IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM, SOMETHING HUGE, INFLUENTIAL WILL EMERGE

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS, SPECIFICALLY, BUT IT IS OUR JOB TO DETERMINE ITS NATURE

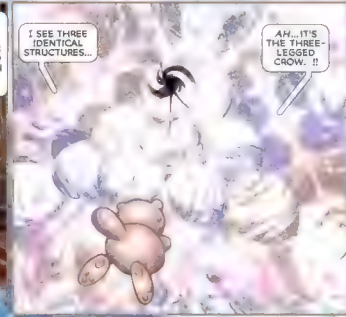
THAT'S TOO ABSTRACT FOR ME.

JUST REMEMBER IT ONE DAY, THIS INFORMATION WILL PROVE USEFUL TO YOU

THERE IS A SIMILAR TREE ERUPTING ON THE OTHER SIDE, AND REVOLVING. SHE HAS REACHED THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE TWO TREES.



NO, WAIT... THE EDGES OF THE ROOTS ARE NOT CONTACTING EACH OTHER... THEY ARE SPROUTING FROM TWO POINTS...



I SEE THREE IDENTICAL STRUCTURES...

AH... IT'S THE THREE-LEGGED CROW. !!



THERE'S A CONNECTION HERE... IT MAY BE A YATASARASU THE SACRED CROW THAT SERVES AS A GUIDE IN JAPAN'S CREATION MYTHS.

APPROACH TOO CLOSE... AND IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE SUCKED IN...

HAIR! ACTIVITY HAS REACHED A DANGEROUS THRESHOLD, SIR

ACTIVATE SUPPRESSION IMPLANT



ASCENDING A TREE WITH AN AMANJAKU DEMON... A CROW IN THE BRANCHES.

HEY, I'VE HEARD OF THIS IN AN OLD FAIRY TALE SOMEWHERE!

YES. IN STRUCTURE, IT RESEMBLES THE JAPANESE CREATION MYTHS.





SOMETHING OF SUBSTANCE, SOMETHING FRUITFUL, HAS BEEN EXCHANGED BETWEEN HER AND THE AMANOJAKU

MAYBE A PERSIMMON...?

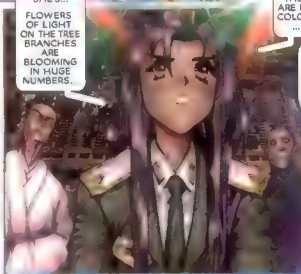
IF YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, YOU CAN LEAVE THE ROOM.

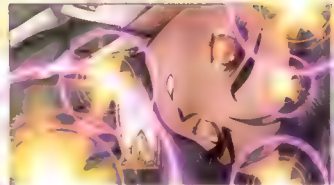
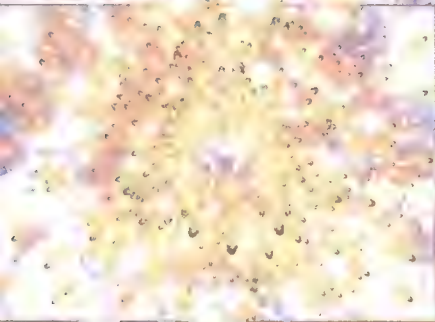
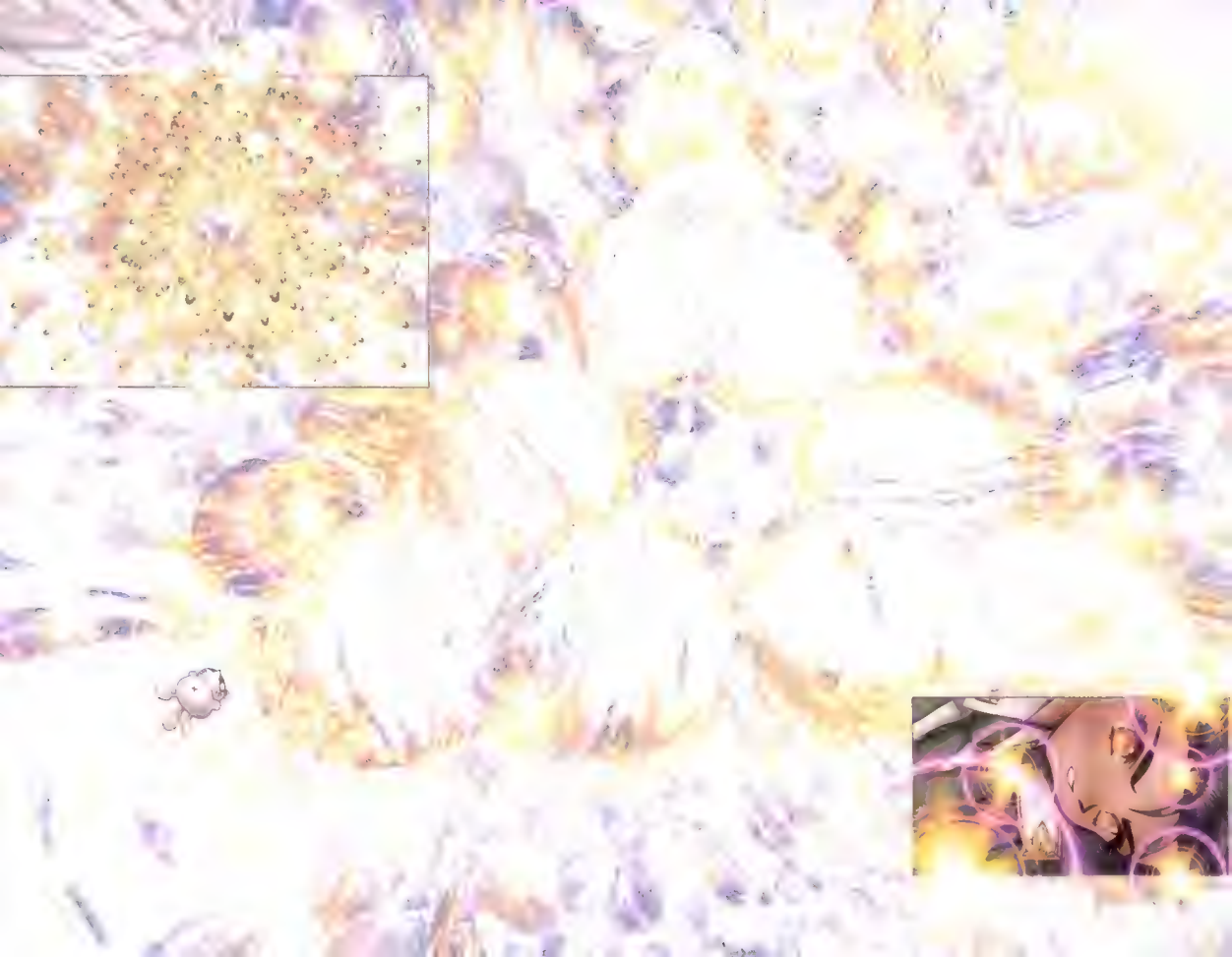


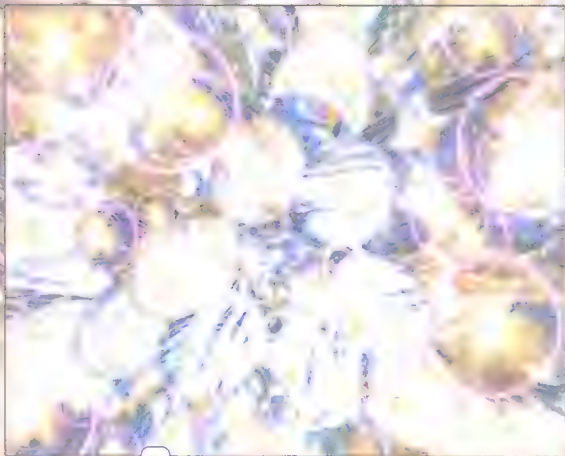
SHE'S... FLOWERS OF LIGHT ON THE TREE BRANCHES ARE BLOOMING IN HUGE NUMBERS.

THERE ARE FIVE COLORS...

MONEYE, KASS THEM BLOOMING FLOWERS, YA MEAN-LIKE IN THE OLD JAPANESE FOLK SONG?







?

I'M SEEING
THE TREE IN
DOUBLE



DOUBLE ?



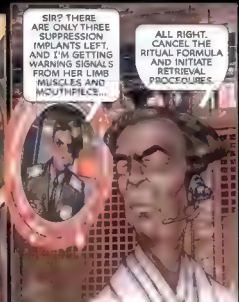
NO,
WAIT
PERHAPS
THERE'S
TWO OF
ME...?



EVERYTHING
LOOKS LIKE
A DOUBLE
IMAGE,
BUT IT'S
STABILIZED.

IT'S LIKE
A REVOLVING
MIRROR.

IN TERMS
OF SCALE,
IT'S THE
MAXIMUM
POSSIBLE
IN VISIBLE
SPACE...



SIR, THERE
ARE ONLY THREE
SUPPRESSION
IMPLANTS LEFT,
AND I'M GETTING
WARNING SIGNALS
FROM HER LIMB
MUSCLES AND
MOUTHPIECE...

ALL RIGHT.
CANCEL THE
RITUAL FORMULA
AND INITIATE
RETRIEVAL
PROCEDURES.



WHAT'S LEFT
IS TO TAKE A
LOOK AT THE
INFORMATION
YOU HAVE
AND MAKE
SOME SORT
OF
INFERENCE
FROM IT.

THEN
WHAT?

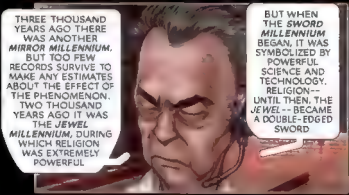
THE MIRROR
GIVES
ASYMMETRICAL
AND WASTY



OUR BASIC INVESTIGATIONS SHOW THAT PROFESSOR RAHAMPOL HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN THE POTENTIAL OF SILICON STRUCTURES IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

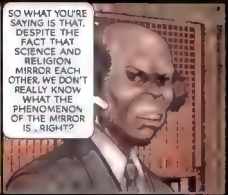
ON THE OTHER HAND MOTOKO ARAMAKI OFFERED HER HARDWARE TO A SELF-PROFESSED ARTIFICIAL LIFE FORM, AND SHE'S BEEN EXPANDING HER INFLUENCE

THE COMMONALITY BETWEEN THESE TWO THINGS IS... A NEW TYPE OF INTELLIGENT LIFE



THREE THOUSAND YEARS AGO THERE WAS ANOTHER MIRROR MILLENNIUM. BUT TOO FEW RECORDS SURVIVE TO MAKE ANY ESTIMATES ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE PHENOMENON. TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO IT WAS THE JEWEL MILLENNIUM, DURING WHICH RELIGION WAS EXTREMELY POWERFUL

BUT WHEN THE SWORD MILLENNIUM BEGAN, IT WAS SYMBOLIZED BY POWERFUL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. RELIGION-- UNTIL THEN, THE JEWEL -- BECAME A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD



SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SCIENCE AND RELIGION MIRROR EACH OTHER, WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THE PHENOMENON OF THE MIRROR IS, RIGHT?



THE MIRROR REFLECTS THE THREE SOULS OF SELF...THE INNER DEITIES

HRM

The Three Souls...I'm not going to get into a discussion here of dualism or the "single spirit, four souls," etc., of the ancient Shinto religion. Although the story seems very "Shinto"-ish here, remember...it isn't Shinto.



SO IT SEEMS
LIKE IN THE
NEAR FUTURE
WE HUMANS
WILL HAVE TO
CONFRONT THE
PHENOMENON
KNOWN AS
INTELLIGENT
ARTIFICIAL
LIFE

BUT IT'LL BE
A MIRROR...
IT LL BE
LIKE SEEING
WHAT
HUMANS
HAVE DONE,
YES?

YES, AND IT COULD
OCCUR AT A
VARIETY OF LEVELS,
WITH IMPACTS
THAT RANGE FROM
LOW TO HIGH, AND
INCLUDE CULTURE,
THE ENVIRONMENT,
POLITICS, SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY,
AND RELIGION

YOU
WOULD BE
CONFRONTING
YOURSELF...



WELL, DON'T
FORGET, SHE SAID
"THE MIRROR
SEEMS
ASYMMETRICAL
AND WARPED"



WELL, THE
UNIVERSE
ITSELF IS
ASYMMETRICAL!

THAT'S WHY
IT EXISTS...
AND THAT'S
WHY IT'S
EVOLVING.



BUT...THERE'S
ALSO THE LINE
OF THOUGHT
THAT SAYS OUR
EXISTENCE IS
LITTLE MORE
THAN ONE NIGHT'S
DREAM OF AN
EMBRYO THAT WE
CALL THE
UNIVERSE...THAT
THE MOVEMENTS
OF THE TREE ARE
JUST A SINGLE
HEARTBEAT..

THERE AREN'T MANY
GOOD EXAMPLES,
AND IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
TO SPEAK WITH
CERTAINTY, BUT THE
SWAYING OF THE
TREE OCCURS WHEN
THE AMANOJAKU
ELEMENT HAS
GROWN LARGE

BUT HOW DO
YOU INTERPRET
THE AMANOJAKU
IN FOLKLORE?

IT REFERS
TO SOMEONE
ALWAYS
DOING
SOMETHING
CONTRARY
OR TO A
DEMON WHO
IMITATES
HUMANS

THERE'S NO
"CORRECT"
ANSWER TO
YOUR
QUESTION... IT'S
SOMETHING
VAGUE... SOME
PEOPLE MIGHT
SAY THE
AMANOJAKU
IS "A PERSON
WHO SPEAKS
THE TRUTH ON
THE TREE'S
SIDE" OR EVEN
"AN EMISSARY
OF THE DEVIL."

IN TAMAKI
TAMAI'S
REPORT, THE
INVESTIGATION
WAS FOCUSED
ON SOMEONE
WITH NO SIGNS
OF THE STRESS
SYNDROME
UNIQUE TO
CYBORGS

NOT A NIHILISTIC
PHILOSOPHER-TYPE,
BUT A **POSITIVE
REALIST**... A
PERSONALITY TRAIT
THE NEW LIFE-FORM
WE'RE SEEING MAY
HAVE INHERITED

AND IF
SO...WHAT
HAPPENS?

SHE WILL
SOON
CONFRONT
THIS

UH...I'VE GOT
A FRIEND IN
THE POSEIDON
SECURITY
DEPARTMENT...
WANT ME TO
HAVE HIM
OBSERVE HER
MOVEMENTS?

NOT NOW.
WE CAN DO
THAT LATER, IF
NEED BE



WE CAN RESTART
THE INVESTIGATION
AS SOON AS TAMAI
RECOVERS, BUT WE'LL
PROBABLY HAVE TO
WAIT UNTIL AROUND
NOON FOR THAT
TO HAPPEN

WELL, SHE *DID*
SAY THAT THIS
MATTER HAD BEEN
AROUND FOR A
THOUSAND YEARS
AND WOULD
PROBABLY
CONTINUE FOR
ETERNITY ..SO..



IT'S TRUE
THAT WHAT
IS GOING TO
OCCUR TODAY
IS ONLY A
BEGINNING...
A SINGLE
TRANSIT
POINT... BUT
IT'S ALSO AN
END POINT

SINCE IT'S
HAPPENING
IN
REAL TIME,
I WANTED
YOU TO BE
PRESENT

? BUT I
THOUGHT
YOU GUYS
WERE IN THE
BUSINESS OF
VIEWING THE
FUTURE..



THE PAST
AND THE
FUTURE ARE
THE SAME
THING

THE ONLY
DIFFERENCE
IS ON THE
PART OF THE
PERCEIVER ..



WHAT
THE--?



MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE: THE END

2



CLOSED

ANTI-BACKFIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM



INTERFACE

Submit your letters to:
Interface@darkhorse.com
 or
Interface
 c/o Dark Horse Comics
 19355 N. Main St.
 Milwaukie, OR 97122

Yumpin' Yiminy, the final issue of *Man-Machine Interface*! I'd like to thank our many loyal readers for staying on the ham wagon through thick and thin – and humpy shipping schedules – and we hope all of you enjoyed the books as much as we enjoyed bringing them to you. And although there'll be no more *Interface* columns – stop cheering, damn you! – feel free to keep dropping emails and letters of comment. As far as you know, we'll keep reading them! Also, we want to pay tribute to those who labored long and hard for little pay and even less money to bring *Man-Machine Interface* to English-speaking audiences.



TOREN SMITH: President of Studio Proteus, he who was manga before you were manga, Johnny. Since 1987, Toren has worked on over 80,000 pages of translated manga comprising 71 different series, which used to be impressive, but isn't anymore ever since that much started being published every month. Working on Shirov comics for 16 years has altered his brain at the molecular level and given him the secret mutant ability to understand Ghost in the Shell. Aside from bringing some of the finest manga to America, Toren does the script rewrites on many translated manga, MMI included, which is an art in itself. Toren will go to the scripts, sing and dance, such as diving wrecks in the Cayman Islands. Don't get it? Well, that's why Toren makes the big bucks, mister!

FREDERIK L. SCHODT: Translator *primo inter pares*, Fred's the guy who sweats bullets to make Mr. Shirov's very complex scripts understandable to those of us who operate several dozen levels of mental magnitude below MMI's creator. Aside from his considerable manga translation credits – like about three quarters of a million words of *Asura Boy* – Fred has written a basket load of fascinating books – yes, buy them NOW – including *Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics* (the definitive work on the subject) and his latest, *Native American in the Land of the Shogun*.



TOM ORZECZOWSKI: One of the comics industry's most renowned letterers, whose personalized approach is as instantly recognizable as that stealy boomer down the street with the eagle claw tattooed on his face, Tom would be a millionaire today had he only been paid by the word during his decades-long stint on X-Men.

DAN JACKSON: Crackerjack Photoshop wrangler Dan Jackson assists Tom Orzechowski with a variety of visual effects and spends the livelong day getting the incredibly complex graphics files for MMI just right. Dan's also a fine colorist as well as a PhD in Particle Physics. Okay, I made that last bit up, but he is a terrific colorist!

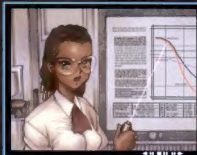
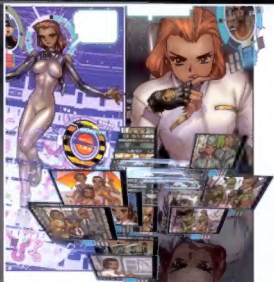


DAVID NESTELLE: Dark Horse is lousy with crackerjack Photoshop wranglers. I tell ya. Dave's the book's principle graphic designer, responsible for the very cool 3D graphics on the "Enter" page and the like. Dave's been busting his tail on eye-slapping digitally rendered images on staff here for some time, and we're really going to miss Dave once we've sent him aside after sucking the creative life out of him.

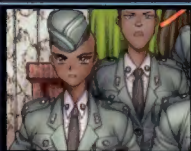
INTERCHANGE

We wind up our final issue of *Man-Machine Interface* with some interesting bits and pieces from the vast *MMI* vaults.

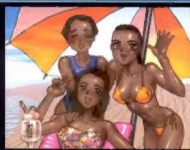
Submitted for your approval, ample evidence of exactly how much painstaking work Masamune Shirow puts into his storytelling. Here's a panel from issue two, with a series of floating screen images. Below are larger versions of those images, but you'll probably want to get out your magnifying glass to check out some of the details that now show up.



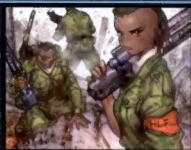
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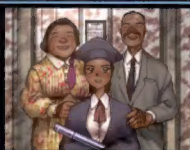
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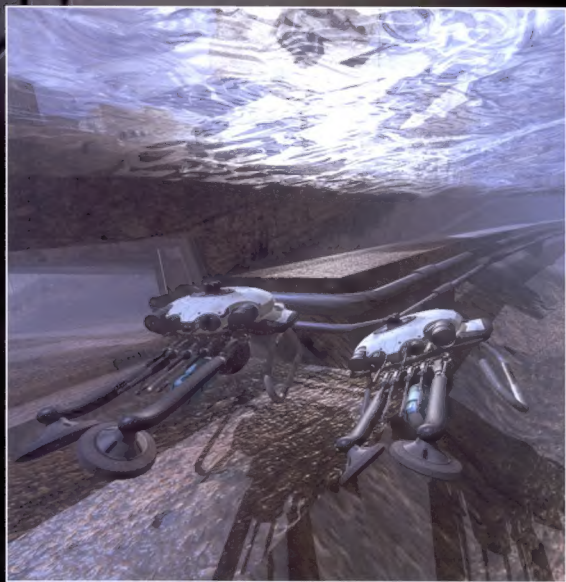


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FILE NO.
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A variant view of the amazing inspection ROVs from the second issue. And the figure floating at right? That's the teeny, tiny figure swimming in the background of the panel!

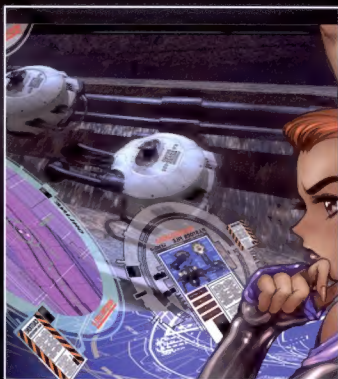


R.O.V-OV38-025 SILURU

TOP VIEW



Okay, now get out your electron microscope! Here's a blown-up version of the little throwaway ROV schematic from issue 2 that was printed about the size of a tobacco tax stamp. I am told by our magical production folk that this text is actually readable when blown up from the high-resolution files. Of course, that could just be the whiskey talking...



And here, the coolest thing ever: the *Man-Machine Interface* mousepad that came with the limited-edition *Solid Box* set in Japan. I had to stop using mine, since I was having a hard time keeping my eyes on the computer screen!

